

Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project

Proposed Alternatives **to Southern Nevada Water Authority's Proposed Action**

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties Groundwater Development Project will include a detailed discussion of alternatives to the Southern Nevada Water Authority's proposed action. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) seeks public input on reasonable alternatives to be thoroughly analyzed and considered in the EIS for the Water Authority's project. BLM anticipates that reasonable alternatives to the proposed action may include the following.

Alternative Facilities/Alignments. This alternative would include specific discussions related to alternative alignments for the pipelines, power lines, well fields, and/or appurtenant facilities. Alternative alignments and facilities may be identified with the goal of minimizing: (1) interference with sensitive resources; (2) the extent of surface disturbance; (3) conflicts with current land management/uses; and (4) disturbances to existing infrastructure.

Decreased Groundwater Development. This alternative would include consideration of impacts associated with development of a decreased quantity of groundwater and a corresponding reduction in the necessary production and conveyance facilities. The specific rationale and criteria for this decreased development alternative will be worked out by the EIS team and from public input.

Enhanced Management. This alternative would include incorporation of special management programs with a goal of conserving resources and reducing the project's overall impact on resources. This may include:

- **Adaptive monitoring and management.** This would provide for adjustments in the timing, amount, and/or location of groundwater development to respond to monitoring and modeling of system conditions as they relate to sensitive resources and existing water rights and users.
- **Enhanced integration in the Water Authority's overall water management program.** This would provide for adjustments to timing and/or quantity of groundwater development based on the availability of water from other Water Authority water resource projects (e.g., use of surface water from the Muddy and Virgin Rivers) and/or reductions in water demands due to conservation and/or other factors.
- **Watershed Improvement Program.** This would provide for a variety of land management measures designed to improve watershed conditions in affected groundwater basins. Enhanced management may improve the water yield in the affected basin, which in turn would result in reduced impacts to the landscapes in that basin.

No-Action Alternative. Under this alternative, no permanent or temporary rights-of-way on BLM managed lands would be granted to the Water Authority for the groundwater development project.